

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI YO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED YUGOSLAV LAW CHANGNG NAVAL PORT VISIT
PARAMETERS (U)

1. (U) ZAGREB NEWSPAPER VJESNIK ON 12 APRIL ANNOUNCED THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY HAS PROPOSED A NEW LAW REGULATING VISITS OF FOREIGN NAVAL VESSEL TO YUGOSLAV PORTS. AT PRESENT, MAXIMUM OF THREE FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS ARE PERMITTED TO VISIT TOGETHER FOR A MAXIMUM OF TEN DAYS; THE VISIT CLEARANCE PERMIT BEING UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (FEC). NO PRIVISIONS EXIST FOR SHIPYARD REPAIR OF FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS. THE NEW LAW CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING CHANGES ACCORDING TO VJESNIK:

A. AS MANY AS FIVE FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS MAY "ENTER YUGOSLAV COASTAL WATERS" SO LONG AS TWO ARE AUXILIARY VESSELS. ARTICLE STATES THAT THIS IS DUE TO FREQUENT NEED FOR AUXILIARIES AND COMBAT VESSELS TO SAIL IN SAME FORMATION.

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B. AUTHORITY TO GRANT VISIT CLEARANCE (INCLUDING INSTITUTIONAL VESSELS ENGAGED IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH) TRANSFERRED FROM FEC TO "COMPETENT FEDERAL SECRETARIATS."

C. AUTHORITY TO GRANT VISIT CLEARANCE FOR FISHING VESSELS TRANSFERRED TO REPUBLIC LEVEL.

D. FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS MAY BE REPAIRED IN YUGOSLAV NAVAL REPAIR FACILITIES, UNDER THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS:

(1) ONLY FEC CAN AUTHORIZE SUCH REPAIRS.

(2) REPAIRS CANNOT EXCEED SIX MONTHS.

(3) NOT MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL CREW CAN REMAIN DURING THE REPAIRS.

(4) AS DETERMINED BY YUGOSLAVIA, COUNTRY TO WHICH SHIP BELONGS CANNOT BE "AGGRESSOR AGAINST SOME OTHER INDEPENDENT AND SOVERIGN COUNTRY" OR "OFFERING MILITARY AID TO AN AGGRESSOR-COUNTRY."

2. (C) THE MOST POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THIS PROPOSED LAW CONCERN THE REPAIR OF FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE LONG ATTEMPTED TO SECURE SUPPORT BASES OR FACILITIES ON YUGO-SLAV ADRIATIC, AND APPARENTLY HAVE ON OCCASIONS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO CURTAIL THE DEPLOYMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN NAVAL UNITS (UNCLUDING SUBMARIENS) AND RETURN THEM TO SOVIET SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES.
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